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NOTED SCIENTIST DEDICATES HIS BODY TO CAUSE OF HUMANITY

Dr. W. J. McGee in Will Leaves
Remains to Brain
Specialist

BY C. S. ALBERT.

(Special Star-Bulletin Correspondence)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 8. — Having devoted practically his entire life to science and the uplift of his fellows, Dr. W. J. McGee, noted anthropologist, geologist, hydrologist, and author, before succumbing to the pains of the fatal disease of which he died on Sept. 4, at the Cosmos Club, consecrated his body to the benefit of mankind. By his will, Col. Henry C. Rizer, the executor is directed to convey the remains to Dr. Edward A. Spitzka, the noted brain specialist of the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. Dr. Spitzka will receive the brain, while the torso and limbs will go to other surgeons of the institution for anatomical study.

With his body will go the brain of Dr. J. W. Powell, former director of the geological survey, which has been in the custody of Dr. McGee since Dr. Powell's death, and is conveyed by Dr. McGee to Dr. Spitzka.

In making this disposition of his body, Dr. McGee, whose first name was "W. J." a manner of address upon which he always insisted, hoped to set an example which would be followed by others. Several states have made permissible such disposition of human bodies, but none has provided any means for furnishing the material upon which physicians and students of medicine may work. Other

men of note have given their brains for scientific study, but a gift of the entire body for mutilation toward this end has created widespread interest in the medical fraternity.

Dr. McGee had corresponded long ago with Dr. Spitzka concerning the use of his brain, but had provided in the will that Col. Rizer should determine to what institution the rest of the body should be given. Col. Rizer consulted with many physicians of note, and was advised that Jefferson College was as well equipped to do anatomical work as probably any other in this country. He then wrote Dr. Spitzka for advice.

When this specialist confirmed the statements of the other members of the medical fraternity, Col. Rizer took his information to Dr. McGee, and the latter, with the same calmness with which he had bequeathed the master portion of his body to the surgeon's knife, willed away the rest to the same end.

While Col. Rizer expects no protest to be raised against the carrying out of his orders, it has been suggested that Dr. McGee's family may protest. This is not thought probable, however, as the scientist's wife is herself a noted physician, having been before her marriage Anita Newcomb, a daughter of the late Prof. Simon Newcomb, a lecturer in hygiene at the University of California, and widely known to the scientific world. Dr. Edward Anthony Spitzka, of Philadelphia, has studied the brains of many eminent men, and is thought to have the best collection of preser-

ed brains in this country. His father, Dr. Edward Charles Spitzka, of New York, is also a noted brain authority and has frequently been summoned as an expert witness in cases involving insanity and brain injury. He testified in the trial of Guiteau, the assassin of President Garfield.

Dr. McGee, for years connected in various capacities with different departments of the federal government, had been suffering for several years with cancer. While this disease was rapidly spreading and consuming his vitality, he found it necessary more than a year ago to undergo an operation for another disability. About three weeks ago, while leaving the club he fell and severely sprained one of his knees. It later developed that in falling he had also wrenched himself as to cause a recurrence of the trouble for which he had been operated on.

The several ailments left the man, just passing from the prime of life, a pain-racked wreck. So severe was his suffering at times that it is reported he requested his physician to administer an anesthetic and relieve him from his suffering.

Born in Dubuque county, Iowa, April 17, 1853, the son of James and Martha Anderson McGee, Dr. McGee spent his boyhood at work upon his father's farm, at the same time studying the elementary branches of science which were to fit him for the work which he espoused later in life. On growing up, however, he first ventured into the field of law, at the same time doing public surveying. Later, he invented, patented, and manufactured agricultural implements.

In 1877 he began the study of geology, and by 1881 had completed geologic and topographic surveys of northeastern Iowa. He later became connected with the United States geological survey.

Dr. McGee in 1894 went into Tiburon Island, in the Gulf of California, to study a tribe of cannibal Indians, never before studied, and for several years was in charge of the American bureau of ethnology. Since 1907 he had been United States commissioner, connected with the inland waterway commission. He had led or been closely connected with a number of national scientific organizations, and served as secretary of the conference of governors at the White House in 1908.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Klotho McGee, and one son, Erik.

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CHILD INJURED BY MOTORCYCLE

A collision between a motorcycle and a child occurred on King street in the Kalihi district yesterday afternoon that easily might have turned out a great deal worse than it did.

The Rev. Frank A. Saylor and Lynn W. McCrackin, both from Iolani school, were riding a motorcycle with an outrigger attachment out King street, and when near the Kalihi road, Alex. Rice, the 10-year-old son of John Rice, ran out of the front gate of his home and started across the street toward the mail carrier to get a letter. At that moment he was struck by the motorcycle ridden by the two gentlemen named above, and was thrown severely to the ground. The riders stopped and picked the boy up and carried him into his home, where it

was seen that he was pretty badly bruised, there being a cut in the scalp and a tooth was missing.

Doctor Straub was called in and found the boy pretty well shaken up and is not sure that there are no internal injuries. No serious developments had been observed up to noon today. According to witnesses no blame attached to the riders.

KALIHI NOW BOASTS IMPROVEMENT CLUB

At a meeting held last night at Kalihi chapel, on King street, fifty-two residents of Kalihi-kai met and organized the Kalihi Improvement Club and elected officers to hold office for the next six months. Those chosen to hold office or to serve on committees were E. C. Bruns, president and treasurer; William Hutchinson, first vice president; Henry Dawson, second vice president; B. Zablan, secretary; E. Marino, assistant secretary; William Ahana, second assistant secretary; executive committee, H. Peters, J. Camara, H. Auld, Charles Honolulu and E. J. Crawford.

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